

The Story of Farmer L. Kanlum: A Journey of Transformation

Name of the farmer:	Mr. L. Kanlum
Age:	62 years
Name of the village:	Lamphoupasna village
District:	Chandel
State:	Manipur
Land holding:	1.00 ha
Farming System adopted:	Agri-Horti-Piggery-fishery



L. Kanlum, a 62-year-old farmer from a small village in Chandel, Manipur, has been involved in farming for over 35 years. His land, though only 1 hectare, was his livelihood — a source of sustenance for him and his family. But, like many small-scale farmers, his journey was marked by struggles. For years, he followed conventional methods of farming, growing seasonal cereals and local vegetables, but his yields were low, and the returns barely covered his family's basic needs. His life was a constant battle to make ends meet, and despite his tireless efforts, his family was living on the edge of poverty.

In the early years, Kanlum's farm had very limited productivity. He planted local varieties of crops, which were susceptible to pests, diseases, and the erratic weather patterns in the region. His farming practices, though traditional, were not yielding the results he hoped for. As a result, Kanlum was constantly facing financial difficulties, unable to invest in better tools or equipment for his farm. The income from his 1-hectare plot was barely sufficient to run his household, let alone improve the quality of life for his family.

Turning Point: ICAR-KVK Chandel Training

In 2008, L. Kanlum's life began to change when he attended a series of training sessions organized by ICAR-KVK (Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Krishi Vigyan Kendra) Chandel. These trainings focused on modern farming techniques, scientific crop management, and the importance of High-Yielding Varieties (HYVs) of crops. At first, Kanlum was skeptical — after all, he had been farming for over three decades using methods passed down through generations. But as he listened to the experts and fellow farmers share their experiences, he realized that his traditional methods were limiting his potential.



With renewed interest, Kanlum decided to give the new techniques a try. He started experimenting with HYV seeds for cereals and vegetables, ensuring better

quality and higher yields. Slowly but surely, he began to see improvements in his crops. Though the changes were gradual, Kanlum could feel the difference — his land was becoming more productive, and for the first time in years, his family's financial situation started to improve. He was able to sell more produce at the market, earning a higher income than before.

Despite these early successes, Kanlum knew he needed to adopt a more holistic approach to farming in order to truly make a sustainable living. The land alone was not enough to support his growing family, and he realized that diversifying his farm operations could bring long-term benefits.

Adoption of Integrated Farming System: A Game-Changer

From 2021 to 2024, with the support of the Tribal Sub-Plan initiatives under ICAR-KVK Chandel, L. Kanlum took a bold step forward in his farming practices. This program introduced him to the concept of an Agri-Horti-Piggery-Fishery based Integrated Farming System (IFS), which combined agriculture, horticulture, livestock farming, and aquaculture into one cohesive system.

Kanlum embraced the technology intervention with open arms, recognizing the potential it held for increasing productivity and profitability. He started by expanding his farm to incorporate fruit orchards alongside his regular vegetable and cereal crops. By integrating piggery and fishery into his farm, he not only diversified his income sources but also created a more sustainable and balanced ecosystem for his crops. The manure from his livestock was used to fertilize the soil, while the fishponds provided natural pest control for his vegetables.

With the improved and scientific methods of farming, Kanlum was able to maximize the use of his 1-hectare plot. The combination of high-yield crops, fruit trees, fish farming, and piggery created a synergy that increased his farm's productivity exponentially. His yield of cereals and vegetables saw a remarkable rise, and the additional income from the piggery and fishery further boosted his financial situation.



Tangible Results: A Transformation

By 2023, just a few years into adopting these integrated farming practices, Kanlum was already reaping the rewards of his hard work. His annual net returns from his 1-hectare farm had skyrocketed to Rs. 2,76,426 — a significant increase from the meager earnings he had once made. The improvement in his income was not just a matter of numbers; it was a life-changing

transformation. Kanlum was able to provide better education for his children, invest in farm equipment, and improve his family's quality of life. His story began to inspire others in his community who saw the tangible benefits of adopting modern farming practices.

The Emotional Impact

For L. Kanlum, the financial gains were just one part of the transformation. More importantly, the changes brought him a sense of pride and fulfilment. He could now look at his farm with satisfaction, knowing that he had not only improved his own life but had also made a lasting impact on his family's future. His children, who had once shown little interest in farming, were now eager to join the farm and take it to even greater heights. They could see the potential for growth and sustainability, and their enthusiasm brought new energy to the family business.

Kanlum also felt a deep sense of gratitude towards ICAR-KVK Chandel for their unwavering support and guidance. Their expert advice, resources, and training had empowered him to take control of his farm's future. He often recalls how hesitant he was in the beginning, unsure if these new methods would truly work, but today, he is proud to be a part of a new generation of farmers who are reshaping agriculture.

A Future Full of Possibilities

Today, L. Kanlum stands as a testament to the power of innovation and adaptability in farming. His journey from struggling farmer to successful agro-entrepreneur is an inspiring story of resilience and hope. With the adoption of an integrated farming system, Kanlum has not only achieved financial stability but has also found a renewed sense of purpose in his work.

As he looks to the future, Kanlum is determined to continue refining his methods and exploring new technologies that can make his farm even more efficient and sustainable. His story serves as a beacon of hope for other farmers in the region, showing them that with the right knowledge, support, and dedication, they too can turn their challenges into opportunities for success.

Through his experience, L. Kanlum has become an advocate for change in his community, urging others to embrace technology and modern farming practices. He is now actively involved in sharing his knowledge with fellow farmers, helping them realize that the road to prosperity is not through tradition alone but through innovation and collaboration. The story of his transformation is a powerful reminder that, in agriculture, change is not just possible — it is essential for growth.